

# Press Release

**Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner  
618 S. Kansas Avenue  
Topeka, Kansas 66603-3804**

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## Moundridge Man Receives Prison for Internet Scam

Topeka, Kansas-- Kansas Securities Commissioner Chris Biggs announced today that an investment scam promoted over the Internet resulted in a prison sentence of 44 months for Moundridge, Kansas resident Anthony M. Montana, A/K/A Anthony W. Whetstine, A/K/A Tyson Gates.

Montana, 33, was sentenced today in McPherson County District Court by Judge Carl B. Anderson, Jr. Montana was denied probation and ordered to the custody of the Secretary of Corrections for the State of Kansas. Montana pled no contest on December 19, 2003 to three felony counts involving the unlawful sale of unregistered and fraudulent securities.

An investigation by the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner found that Montana was operating under the business name Free Market Brokers and Consulting and was using the Internet and direct mail to solicit investors for a company called Venture Capital Investments. He guaranteed a 600% return on the investments and claimed that the investments were FDIC insured. Thirty-two people invested \$82,000. None of the victims were from Kansas.

The McPherson County Attorney, McPherson County Sheriff's Department, Moundridge Police Department and the United States Postal Inspector assisted in the investigation. Biggs prosecuted the case on behalf of the State of Kansas. In a related civil lawsuit, Montana's bank account and a vehicle were seized following his [arrest](#) on November 13, 2003.

Biggs warned of an infinite number of [investment scams](#) running via the Internet. "The promise of a safe and secure investment may catch your eye, but always check out the salesperson and the company before you send any money. A phone call to our office can make a difference." Biggs explained that his office learned about this case from someone who was considering investing with Mr. Montana.

Kansans may contact the Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner at 1-800-232-9580 to verify that the person offering or selling an investment is licensed and that the investment opportunity is registered. For other investor education tips, visit [www.securities.state.ks.us](http://www.securities.state.ks.us).

The Office of the Kansas Securities Commissioner is charged with administration and enforcement of the Kansas Securities Act under Chapter 17 of the Kansas Statutes. The Office investigates and prosecutes securities fraud, the offer or sale of unregistered securities and the offer or sale of securities by unlicensed stockbrokers or investment advisers. For more information and investor education resources, visit <http://www.securities.state.ks.us>.